



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MEDIA CONTACTS**  
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253  
Jolene Holgate | 928.308.4174  
Chrissy Largo | 928.637.5603  
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

## **Resources and Development Committee approves supplemental funding for Tsé Si áni, Chichiltah and Chilchinbeto Chapter Houses**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0027-14, which seeks supplemental funding from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$90,000 for Tsé Si áni Chapter for roof repairs, \$600,000 for Chichiltah Chapter for renovations, and \$300,000 for Chilchinbeto Chapter for renovations, totaling approximately \$990,000.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) emphasized that a total of eight communities throughout the Navajo Nation do not have a chapter house.

“We don’t have a building there and they haven’t had a building in over ten years. I believe that it is the government’s responsibility to provide the facility for the community,” stated Delegate Benally, in reference to the Chilchinbeto community.

The original Chilchinbeto Chapter House has reached its full depreciation and is over 30 years old. Currently, the Chilchinbeto Chapter conducts its business out of a temporary modular home that was deemed unfit for occupancy, according to the Navajo Nation Office of Environmental Health.

Delegate Benally proposed an amendment to change the word “renovation” to “planning and design” of a new facility to house the Chilchinbeto Chapter House.

“This really isn’t for renovation. This is for planning and designing of a new building. I do not want [the Office of Management and Budget] to say, ‘it’s for renovation but over here, you are asking for a contract for architectural work,’ I’m just making sure all our bases are covered,” stated Delegate Benally.

RDC members approved the amendment with a vote of 3-0.

The urgency of the matter was reiterated by legislation co-sponsor Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dził, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) who noted that the Tsé Si áni Chapter is currently dealing with roof leaks caused by rain and snow build up.

The Tsé Si áni Chapter House was constructed in 1966 and since then, the roof has become ineffective and now requires removal and replacement, according to a memo dated Sept. 16, 2013, from chapter manager Laura Lee Yazzie to Delegate Curley.

“Now that this legislation has gone through the SAS process, let’s agree on it to be forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee for approval. I graciously plead for a favorable vote to secure funds for this meaningful project,” stated Delegate Curley.

Documents contained in the legislation packet also note that the Chichiltah Chapter House is temporarily closed due to unforeseen problems with water drainage and electrical maintenance.

According to a memo dated Feb. 3 `from the Office of the Controller, the UUFB currently has approximately \$30 million remaining.

RDC members approved the legislation with a vote of 3-0.

Legislation No. 0027-14 now moves onto the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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